

Latin America

El Salvador

A New Round of FMLN Terrorism

A recent campaign of violence by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) against military personnel and their families—featuring torture and assassinations—is probably an effort to provoke a military crackdown that would

tarnish San Salvador's domestic and international image. The FMLN has been adept at using propaganda to swing public opinion against the armed forces and the Cristiani government, which it hopes would lead to a cutoff in all US aid. Moreover, the FMLN leadership probably believes that its demonstrated ability to hit government targets increases its bargaining strength in the current peace talks. While atrocities by government forces—for example, the murder of the six Jesuit priests and two others on 16 November 1989—are widely picked up and used by the media, [REDACTED] that the government has been lax in documenting and publicizing FMLN violence such as this recent terrorist campaign. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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